

Amendments to the Claims

1-44. (Previously Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a solid phospholipid blend comprising two or more phospholipids:

- (a) providing a non-aqueous solution consisting essentially of said two or more phospholipids and a first non-aqueous solvent system consisting of one or more non-aqueous solvents, wherein said phospholipids are present in said non-aqueous solution at a predetermined relative ratio of from about 5 mg of lipid blend per mL of non-aqueous solvent to about 15 mg/mL;
 - (b) concentrating the solution into a thick gel;
 - (c) contacting the thick gel with a second non-aqueous solvent that causes said phospholipids to precipitate as a solid phospholipid blend; and
 - (d) collecting said solid phospholipid blend,
- wherein the relative ratio of phospholipids in said solid phospholipid blend corresponds to said predetermined relative ratio in the non-aqueous solution of step (a), and further wherein step (c) is performed at a temperature of from about 15 to about 30°C.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 45, wherein in step (a), the phospholipids are:

- (i) 1,2-dipalmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine;
- (ii) 1,2-dipalmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphatidic acid, monosodium salt; and
- (iii) *n*-(methoxypolyethylene glycol 5000 carbamoyl)-1,2-dipalmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphatidylethanolamine, monosodium salt.

48. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 45, wherein said first non-aqueous solvent system consists of a mixture of methanol and toluene.

49. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 45, wherein said second non-aqueous solvent is methyl *t*-butyl ether.

50. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 45, wherein the solution of step (a) is warmed to a temperature of from about 25 to about 75°C.

51. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 45, further comprising washing said blend of solid phospholipids with methyl *t*-butyl ether.

52. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 45, further comprising drying the blend of solid phospholipids *in vacuo*.

53. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a suspension comprising two or more phospholipids, said process comprising:

- (1) providing a solid phospholipid blend prepared according to the process of Claim 45;
- (2) dissolving said solid phospholipid blend in a non-aqueous polyol solvent to provide a dispersed phospholipid blend solution;
- (3) without removing said polyol solvent, contacting said dispersed phospholipid blend solution with an aqueous solution to form a phospholipid suspension.

54. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 53, wherein said polyol solvent is selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, and polyethylene glycol 300.

55. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 54, wherein said polyol solvent is propylene glycol.

56. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 53, wherein step (2) is performed at a temperature of from about 30°C to about 70°C.

57. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 56, wherein step (2) is performed at a temperature of from about 50°C to about 55°C.

58. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 53, wherein the ratio of solid phospholipid blend to polyol solvent is from about 5 mg of solid phospholipid blend per mL of polyol solvent to about 15 mg of solid phospholipid blend per mL of polyol solvent.

59. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 58, wherein the ratio of solid phospholipid blend to polyol solvent is about 10 mg of solid phospholipid blend per mL of polyol solvent.

60. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 53, wherein said aqueous solution is selected from the group consisting of water, saline, a mixture of saline and glycerin, and a saline, glycerin, and polyol solvent mixture.

61. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 60, wherein said aqueous solution is a mixture of saline and glycerin.

62. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 60, wherein said aqueous solution is a mixture of saline, glycerin and propylene glycol.

63. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 62, wherein said phospholipid suspension comprises 6.8 mg/mL of sodium chloride, 0.1 mL/mL of glycerin, 0.1 mL/mL of propylene glycol, and about 0.75 to 1.0 mg/mL of said solid phospholipid blend.

64. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 63, containing about 0.75 mg/mL of said solid phospholipid blend.

65. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 63, containing about 1.0 mg/mL of said solid phospholipid blend.

66. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 53, wherein the phospholipids are:

- (i) 1,2-dipalmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine;
- (ii) 1,2-dipalmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphatidic acid, monosodium salt; and
- (iii) *n*-(methoxypolyethylene glycol 5000 carbamoyl)-1,2-dipalmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphatidylethanolamine, monosodium salt.

67. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 63, wherein the phospholipids are:

- (i) 1,2-dipalmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine;
- (ii) 1,2-dipalmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphatidic acid, monosodium salt; and
- (iii) *n*-(methoxypolyethylene glycol 5000 carbamoyl)-1,2-dipalmitoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphatidylethanolamine, monosodium salt.

68. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 53, wherein said phospholipid suspension contains phospholipid particles which are less than 100 nm in diameter.

69. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 68, wherein said phospholipid suspension contains phospholipid particles which are less than 50 nm in diameter.

70. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 69, wherein said phospholipid suspension contains phospholipid particles which are less than 50 nm in diameter.

71. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 53, further comprising heating said aqueous solution to a temperature of from about 45°C to about 60°C prior to contacting said aqueous solution with said dispersed phospholipid blend solution.

72. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 71, wherein said aqueous solution is heated to a temperature of from about 50°C to about 55°C prior to contacting said aqueous solution with said dispersed

phospholipid blend solution.

73. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 53, further comprising the step of:

- (4) heating said phospholipid suspension to a temperature about equal to or above the highest gel to liquid crystalline phase transition temperature of the phospholipids present in said suspension.

74. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 73, wherein in step (4) said phospholipid suspension is heated to a temperature of at least about 67°C.

75. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 73, further comprising the step of:

- (5) filtering said phospholipid suspension through a sterilizing filter.

76. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 75, wherein said filtering is performed using two sterilizing filter cartridges.

77. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 76, wherein said sterilizing filter cartridges are at a temperature of from about 70°C to about 80°C.

78. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 76, wherein said sterilizing filter cartridges are 0.2 µm sterilizing cartridges.

79. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 75, further comprising the step of:

- (6) dispensing the filtering solution from step (5) into a vial.

80. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 79, wherein said vial comprises a headspace containing a first gas, and further comprising the step of:

- (7) exchanging the first gas in said headspace with a perfluorocarbon gas.

81. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 80, wherein said perfluorocarbon gas is perfluoropropane.

82. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 81, wherein said exchanging of gas is performed using a lyophilizing chamber.

83. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 82, further comprising the step of:

- (8) sterilizing said vial.

84. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 83, wherein said vial is sterilized at about 126°C to about 130°C for 1 to 10 minutes.

85. (Withdrawn) A phospholipid suspension prepared by the process of any one of Claims 53 to 84.

86. (Withdrawn) A vial containing a phospholipid suspension and a headspace comprising a perfluorocarbon gas, prepared by the process of any one of Claims 80 to 84.